

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

The Office Action mailed July 27, 2005 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 18-20, 22, 24-26, and 28-33 remain pending in the application.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 12-14, 18-20, 24-26, 29, 32, 33, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (hereafter “IBM Bulletin”) and further in view of U.S. patent 5,367,619 to Dipaolo et al. (hereinafter “Dipaolo”). Claims 2, 15, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over IBM and Dipaolo, further in view of U.S. patent 6,393,442 to Cromarty et al. (hereinafter “Cromarty”). Claims 8, 10, 11, 25, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over IBM and Dipaolo further in view of U.S. patent 6,519,571 to Guheen et al. (hereinafter “Guheen”). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

With respect to the pending independent claims, as acknowledged in the office action, the IBM Bulletin does not disclose (1) automatic triggering of a propagation of a predetermined event on the node set, (2) to a registered partner, (3) over a global network. In order to cure this deficiency of the IBM Bulletin, the office action relies on the newly cited Dipaolo.

However, Diapaolo also does not disclose anything related to the 3 features missing in the IBM Bulletin. Dipaolo relates to a rule-based software system incorporated into a form data entry system so that only valid data is entered in a series of related forms.

With respect to the claimed feature which requires communicating to a registered partner over a global network, the office action cites to col. 1, lines 23-38 and col. 6, lines 39-68. Col. 1, lines 23-38 mentions the word “network” in the context of a “network or hierarchy” of forms but this has nothing to do with the claimed global network. As is well

known to those in the database art, this network reference in Dipaolo relates to a form of data storage in which the stored elements (the forms) are linked in a network model of data storage (as distinct from an alternative hierarchical model or a relational model). Therefore, there is absolutely no disclosure of the claimed features (2) and (3) in DiPaolo.

Likewise, col. 6, lines 39-68 of Dipaolo discloses that changing the value of one field could result in changes to other fields in the same form or a related form. Once again, this has almost nothing to do with the claimed propagation of an event on the node set to registered partners over the global network. See, for example, paragraphs 71-72 and 74-77 in the specification with respect to support for this claimed features in the specification.

These features provide the advantage that related or *registered trading partners* are *automatically* updated when any changes are made to a node set. See paragraph 79 for these advantages.

Therefore, neither these claimed features nor their advantages are disclosed or suggested by the applied prior art. Therefore, the office action fails to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the independent claims as required by section 103. In this context, it should be noted that the patent office is required to find prior art that discloses the claimed invention as a whole. Finding isolated references to the disparate components that are pieced together using only the applicant's invention as a roadmap is impermissible hindsight reconstruction.

The dependent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional reasons for their patentability when considered as a whole.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice of the same is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 27, 2005

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 672-5485

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By

Aaron C. Chatterjee

William T. Ellis
Registration No. 26,874

Aaron C. Chatterjee
Registration No. 41,398

Attorneys for Applicant